

**HALLAZGO DE SILICIUROS DE HIERRO
EN EL METEORITO EL AYBAL, SALTA, ARGENTINA**

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Abstract

A scoria-like rock has been found in El Aybal area, Salta, Argentina on November 17th, 1998. This date is coincident with the Leonid meteor shower observed in La Puna region. The origin of this rock is briefly discussed. The main objective of this contribution is to present the mineralogical study of different phases, specially of strongly magnetic spheres, for the first time recognized in Argentina. XRD and punctual chemical analyses yielded native Cu, Fe and Si elements together with gupeiite (Fe_3Si), xifenjite (Fe_5Si_3), fersilicite (FeSi), ferdasilicite (FeSi_2) and wüstite (FeO), which are meteoritic in origin.